SUBJECTS.

Dewan's reply.—A special officer is now investigating the whole question. Till his investigation is completed and his report is received and considered by Government, it will not be possible to make any announcement on the subject of the water-rate to be levied on the lands benefited by the Kodayar Project. In view, however, to the apprehensions that are probably entertained by the holders of lands under the Kodayar, I have no hesitation in conveying to them the assurance of Government that the matter will be dealt with as sympathetically as possible. Before passing final orders on any scheme submitted, I shall visit the area concerned and hear what the people concerned have to say.

7. *Demand notice fees.*

Mr. K. Sankara Pillai (Member, Kottarakara Taluk) said that demand notices were being issued if payment was not made within the 15th of the month in which it fell due and that the method of calculating demand notice fees with reference to the distances at which the ryots lived worked hardship. The tax might be one fanam and the fees might come to 5 or 6 fanams. He requested that summonses might be issued instead of notices.

Mr. K. Narayana Panicker (Member, Karunagapalli Taluk) in supporting the member, said that in civil courts a uniform fee was being levied for notices, and that a fixed rate might also be levied for demand notices irrespective of the distances the peons had to go to serve them.

Dewan's reply.—There are two requests made in regard to this subject. The first is that we should not issue demand notices when people would not pay the monies due by them to the Sirkar, but that we should give them some days of grace and afterwards send a summons. This suggestion cannot be accepted. If a ryot does not pay, it is the duty of the Sirkar to send him a demand notice.

In regard to demand notice fees, at present these fees are calculated ratably according to the distances from the Taluk cutcherry to the residences of the defaulters. The question whether a uniform scale of fees may not be prescribed for all distances will be considered.

8. *Assessment on puduvals.*

Mr. K. Geevarghese (Member, Quilon Taluk) referred to the hardship resulting from a recent order of Government prescribing an assessment of not less than 5 fanams per acre on puduval lands and requested that the assessment should be made with reference to the *tharams* as determined by the Settlement department.

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